‘CULTURAL HYBRIDITY AND AMBIVALENCE OF IDENTITY IN THE SELECT NOVELS OF KIRAN DESAI AND CHETAN BHAGAT: A CRITICAL STUDY’

A Research Proposal

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1. INTRODUCTION:

The postcolonial world structured with unfathomable community and society which enhance the dynamics of the new world.It introduces the new world with a third space which is multicultural and multilingual in background. The fiction of postcolonial world has their deep and abiding concern for the major issues such as cultural and genetic hybridity, orient and occidental dichotomy, cultural manipulation, diaspora, displacement, disintegration of society and fragmentation. One of the major issues in this era is hybridity

Postcolonial world is represented in the novels of diverse writers with its quintessential characteristics. They represent character with their migration from one place to another and establish a multicultural situation & communities. This community creates complex structure of society where the individuals lose their indigenous identity. They feel alienated, dislocated from their native culture.

The novels of Kiran Desai concentrate on cultural loss due to the multicultural situation. The novels record and reflect desires and disruptive impact of post colonialism on the social attitude of the inhabitant Indians. Her novels provide seamy side of globalization where the personal feeling, desire and longing have been lost. Her novels such as *Inheritance of Loss* and *Hullabaloo In Guava Orchard* deal with a number of present day issues such as economic inequality, poverty, fundamentalism and terrorist violence but the major emphasis is on mobility, migration, dislocation and subsequent loss of background of history and family. Her novels emphasize on metamorphosis that occur by craze for western values, manners, languages and life style. Multiculturalism has raised important question to the migrant, minorities the impact of modernization in the postcolonial world brought consumerism and deep rooted reaction to indigenous values.

Chetan Bhagat's novels basically set in metropolitan cities manifest multicultural situation. Globalization advances multiculturalism because of migration. The world he has shown is built around information technology where malls and multiplex give a new lease of life. This establishes mostly hybrid culture. His 2 *States: The Story of My Marriage* deals with how multicultural ground realities affect generation-Y greatly. His one more novel *One Night @ the Call Center* concentrates on cross cultural identity in the age of cyberculture. The author believes that culture as a way of life and process has evolved into the doctrine of

multiculturalism in which cultural co-existence and improvement supported through globalization. His novels show how the human being is transformed into mechanical life.

2. ORIGIN OF THE RESEARCH PROBLEM:

This is the era of globalization, privatization and liberalization. These ideologies are primarily used in the discourse of economics. Later the ideologies dominate on the individual and social life. Due to Globalization, men and women are attracted towards metropolitan cities. They form a multicultural context or community which becomes highly dynamic in nature. This community comprises diverse cultures with variety of castes, creeds, races, and religion. People who live in such kind of community establish *a third space* which is also called as hybrid community. This hybrid community is known as culturally hybridized community where the indigenous identity of the person becomes estranged. The effect of such kind of hybridized community creates a sense of alienation, economic and existential crisis, identity crisis, power politics, manipulation and many other things. The select novels of Kiran Desai and Chetan Bhagat have deep and abiding concern to represent the effect of globalization, privatization and liberalization and their effect on indigenous community

3. TITLE OF THE PROPOSED RESEARCH:

The present research work entitled ***Cultural Hybridity and Ambivalence of Identity in the Select Novels of Kiran Desai and Chetan Bhagat: A Critical Study*** is secondary research which analyses and interprets the novels of Kiran Desai and Chetan Bhagat. The proposed research work employs the terms like genetic hybridity and cultural hybridity. The terms tend to signify rich meanings. These terms have been interpreted by writer like Homi Bhabha, Bill Ashcroft, Gayatri Spivak, Stuart Hall and Marwan Kraidy.

Hybridity has been frequently used in postcolonial discourse to mean simply cross cultural exchange. The term *hybridity* has been associated with the works of Homi Bhabha whose analysis of colonizer and colonized relation stresses their interdependence. Homi Bhabha associates hybridization with *third space*. In third space cultural context the cultural identity always becomes contradictory and ambivalent. Homi Bhabha basically thinks that the postcolonial and postmodern world is multicultural in background that constructs the third space culture where personal identity and indigenous culture seems in the crisis.

A dignified authority on the subject of cultural aspects of globalization is undoubtedly Homi K. Bhabha, who is also best known for his central contribution to the development of post-colonial theory. As one of the most disputed terms in postcolonial studies, ‘hybridity’

commonly refers to '*the creation of new transcultural forms within the contact zone produced by colonization.*' (Ashcroft, 2003) In fact, to put it more accurately the much contested term hybridity is recently seen as a cultural effect of globalization.

M. M. Kraidy offers hybridity as the 'cultural logic' of globalization as it '*entails that traces of other cultures exist in every culture, thus offering foreign media and marketers transcultural wedges for forging affective links between their commodities and regional communities.*'

Nederveen Pieterse, who labels hybridity as the *rhizome of culture*, argues that globalization as hybridization opposes views which see the process as homogenizing, modernizing, and westernizing, and that it broadens the empirical history of the concept. Hybridization takes many forms including cultural, political and linguistic. This notion of hybridity is central to Bhabha's work '*in challenging notions of identity, culture, and nation as coherent and unified entities that exhibit a linear historical development. Hybridity expresses a state of inbetweenness, as in a person who stands between two cultures.*'

Hybridity, Bhabha argues, subverts the narratives of colonial power and dominant cultures. In his article entitled, '*Cultural Diversity and Cultural Differences*', Bhabha stresses the interdependence of colonizer and colonized. He argues that all cultural systems and statements are constructed in what he calls the '*Third Space of Enunciation*'. Bhabha urges us into this space in an effort to open up the notion of an international culture '*not based on exoticism or multi-culturalism of the diversity of cultures, but on the inscription and articulation of culture's hybridity.*'

4. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

The present research proposes to work for the fulfillment of following objectives.

1. To understand major postcolonial issues
2. To perceive the complex multicultural world of postcolonial era.
3. To understand postcolonial issues like multiculturalism, hybridity, globalization.
4. To analyze and interpret the question of hybridity in postcolonial world in general.
5. To interpret hybridity represented in the select novels of Chetan Bhagat and Kiran Desai.
6. To compare different kinds of hybridity represented in the select novels of Chetan Bhagat and Kiran Desai.
7. Finally to come up with certain suggestion to overcome the challenges of Hybridity.

5. HYPOTHESES:

1. Postcolonial world is multicultural in nature.
2. Postcolonial world establishes hybrid culture in multicultural context.
3. Hybridity whether it is genetic or cultural leads to rootlessness, identity and Existential crisis, alienation, feeling of dislocation.
4. The world of globalization creates negative impact on human being.

6. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:

With growing globalization, the world is coming together to make the global village, where migrated people establish a new community which creates a hybridized world with it's the problem and prospects. This research work tries to define the nature of hybridized communities represented in the select works of Kiran Desai and Chetan Bhagat.Thus the research work seeks to be significant in understanding the individual, social &cultural status of postcolonial world.This research work proves to be significant and helpful to the research communities, creativewriters, educational institutions, students and ordinary people as well.

As it tries to analyze major issues of the selected Indian novels, the present research work will also prove to be significant and helpful to research communities and research institutions. It will also be useful to persons who are unknown with the nature and impact of globalization. Globalization is like a tsunami which is rapidly changing the world and making a metamorphosis in the social and cultural values. This will prove to be significant and noteworthy to change the ideology of mankind. This research will be helpful to the mankind to be aware of the effects of the globalization. The study also concentrates on the preservation of the cultural, conventional values.

7. SCOPE AND LIMITATION:

The proposed research work entitled ***Cultural Hybridity and Ambivalence of Identity in the Select Novels of Kiran Desai and Chetan Bhagat: A Critical Study*** analyses and interprets the select novels of Kiran Desai and Chetan Bhagat. It tries to explore the concept of cultural hybridity and the reason behind it. It also considers the major consequences of cultural hybridity with reference to the works written by the above authors.For the convenience of this research work the following novels have been selected:

Kiran Desai: 1) *Hullabaloo in Guava Orchard* (1998)

2) *The Inheritance of Loss* (2006)

Chetan Bhagat: 1) *One Night @ the Call center* (2005)

2) *2 States: The Story of My Marriage* (2009)

8. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The study intends to analyze and evaluate the primary texts by using various ideological and technical concepts. The topic of the research being thematic, it also claims for various research methods and techniques that would be applied to analyze the select novels and bring out the real value of the research. Hence, the research is analytical, descriptive and interpretative in nature.

The methodology in this research is applied through one major standard, i.e. an *eclectic approach* and a complementary theoretical framework. Most fundamental for the framework, there exists a spectrum which contains some of the ideas, concepts, disciplines and theories proposed by contemporary scholars. The eclectic approach, which has been chosen on the basis of the interdisciplinary nature of the method by which the selected texts are studied and explored, contains a number of theories, styles and ideas.

The methodology of the research also functions as a multi-layer evaluation of the selected texts. The selected texts are observed as bearing the reflections of some dimensions and effects of globalization within their events; being thematized within the texts globalization becomes more directly traceable. In the meantime, it is noted that some parts of the selected texts are developed into platforms which could evoke, support and interpret various social, political, literary, and cultural aspects of globalization.

9. DATA COLLECTION:

The research tries to consult all the source materials on the cultural hybridization and identity crisis available in the reference books, journals, articles, films, research works. Thus this research is based on the secondary data. For the research material following procedure will be intended by the researcher. For the collection and organization of the research material, the researcher intends to visit different libraries and consult the experts in the field to get better perspectives in shaping the ideas. For the data collection of information regarding the globalization a number of authentic websites are useful.

For the collection and the organization of the research material, the researcher intends to adopt the following methodological procedure:

1) **Visits**-The researcher will visit central libraries such as Indira Gandhi Central Library, Hyderabad, Jawaharlal Nehru University Central Library, New Delhi, and National

Library Kolkatta. It will also be useful to visit the local libraries for the data collection. The researcher will consult the experts in the field to get better perspectives in shaping ideas.

10. JUSTIFICATION OF THE RESEARCH WORK:

The proposed research work looks at the selected novels in a different angle of perception by considering the issues related to postcolonial and postcolonial world. It explores the real structure, problems, prospects and consequences of the postcolonial and postmodern world through the selected novels. Hence, the study is quintessential to understand the structure and ideologies today's world.

11. TENTATIVE CHAPTER SCHEME:

The present research work is divided into five chapters for the sake of convenience of study.

Chapter No.1-Introduction

The first chapter will give a comprehensive account of *Steps of Research* which constitutes Research Methodology, Scope and Limitations, Data Collection, Hypothesis, Significance of the Study and Justification.

Chapter No.2-Theoretical Preliminaries

This chapter aims at giving theoretical concept of postcolonial world, cultural hybridization and its consequence such as identity and existential crisis, ambivalencein general and partly in Indian context. The present chapter first highlights the effects that caused in the Indian context by the arrival of globalization. It is observed that modern Indian novels are influenced from effect of globalizations on the Indian society, and some responses of it from some thinkers and philosophers.

This mixed identity, hybridity, has been recently associated with the work of Homi Bhabha, whose analysis of colonizer/colonized stresses their interdependence and the mutual construction of their subjectivity. Bhabha maintains that all the cultural statements and systems are structured in a space that he names third', the third space of the enunciation. Cultural identity always comes out in this contradictory and ambivalent space which for Bhabha constructs the argument to a hierarchical 'purity' of cultures.

This research investigates the effects of globalization in shaping the production of contemporary English language literature from India and its diaspora in order to understand what this surge in English writing means for contemporary theories of globalization and culture, world literature, and postcolonial literary studies.

Chapter No.3-Cultural Hybridity represented in Kiran Desai Select Novels: Challenges and Consequences

This chapter chiefly scrutinizes the cultural hybridity and its consequences on the Indian society represented in Kiran Desai's *The Inheritance of Loss* and *Hullabaloo in Guava Orchard*. It highlights majorly on the indigenous culture which is spoiled by the globalization. The colonial policies such as indirect manipulation, domination, monopoly, centralization, power politics, hegemony, imperial attitude, ethnic identity crisis, existential struggle, feeling of alienation, isolation, marginalization, superior complexity, slavery have been part of the society. In this novel, the writer directly or indirectly shows the impact of globalization. Kiran Desai deals with the impact of globalization expressed in terms of financial security in alien lands, racial discrimination, bitterness of immigration, complexity of high tech society and disillusionment born out of the opulence of the West. It is also exposed how the dream of globalization has become a threat to the identity of the ethnic community.

Chapter No.4-Cultural Hybridity represented in Chetan Bhagat Select Novels: Problems and Prospects

This chapter tends to show the effect of globalization reflected in Chetan Bhagat's *One Night @ the Call Center* and *2 States: The Story of my Marriages*. Thus constitute the impact of global culture on the indigenous culture. These novels deal with the theme of hybridization embodying with the example of world of global culture. This chapter also projects the life revealed in the technologically well-developed cyber or metropolitan cities where the people are drawn from the diverse migrated situations. This creates a multicultural hybrid situation. The nature of this world is quiet complex because it is not projecting only one community with homogenous culture, race, caste and creed. Instead the novels consider the admixture of various cultures in chaos.

Instead the world constitutes global culture with multinational companies and their codes and conducts as well as regionaldiverse indigenous cultures with diverse religions, languages, traditions and customs. The novel deeply records the *world of image* in which it opens up with the nature of the same age. It basically concentrates on *cyber-culture* where the life of employees is connected with the complex work environment. The environment at the work place is rather perplexed with the hybridity of the culture.

Chapter No. 5- Conclusion

This chapter sums up with major issues like culture, hybridization, globalization, ambivalence of identity reflected in all the four selected novels. It will also tries to make the comparison and contrast of the major issues projected in the selected novels. It ends with the major findings obtained from the research work. This chapter also stresses its importance in understanding the consequences of globalization, hybridization of diverse cultures represented in the chapters. Finally it traces its importance on the scope for further studies related to globalization.

12. CONCLUSION:

This is worth to consider that cultural hybridization has certain positive and negative impact on education, society, culture and language. It is worth to say that this research will prove itself in developing the perception of postcolonial world with deep and abiding consideration.

13. YEARWISE PLAN OF THE RESEARCH WORK:

SR. NO.	PERIOD	NATURE OF THE WORK
1	First Year	Collection of reference books, journals, magazines etc.
		Attending speeches, seminars, conferences and symposiums related to the research topic
2	Second Year	Acquiring full-fledged knowledge through books, journals, and other sources Writing Chapters
3	Third Year	Final draft and submission of research work

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